

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 DRC-01 /119 W

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R 260900Z SEP 73

FM AMCONSUL IZMIR

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1069

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PI

O, TU

SUBJECT: RRP VIEWS THE ELECTION

1. DURING LUNCH SEPT 24 LOCAL RRP CHAIRMAN (FORMER RPP CHAIRMAN) TOLAT ORHON PREDICTED RRP WOULD BE ABLE TO HOLD ITS OWN IN OCTOBER ELECTION, RPP WOULD WIN LESS THAN 100 SEATS, AND JP WOULD NOT WIN MAJORITY. ALTHOUGH MANY COALITION COMBINATIONS POSSIBLE, HE BELIEVED JP-RRP WOULD BE MOST PROBABLE AND MOST EFFECTIVE.
2. RRP, ALTHOUGH SLIGHTLY TO LEFT OF JP, WOULD BE

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MORE WILLING THAN DEMIREL TO USE NECESSARY FORCE TO CONTROL DISSIDENCE. ORHON PAINTED VERY BLEAK PICTURE OF FUTURE IN EVENT JP WINS MAJORITY. HE PROJECTED REPEAT OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO MARCH 12 MEMORANDUM WITH FURTHER COMPLICATION THAT MILITARY

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WOULD BE MORE RELUCTANT INTERVENE AND INTERNAL

SECURITY SITUATION MIGHT BECOME EXPLOSIVE.

3. ORHON SAID RPP NOW COMPLETELY DOMINATED BY ECEVIT AND ALTHOUGH PARTY'S PROGRAM HAD NOT CHANGED, ECEIT'S PERSONALITY CREATED IMPRESSION THAT IT HAD MOVED TO LEFT. ACCORDING ORHON, ECEIVIT'S GREAT WEAKNESS ADMINISTRATION AND RPP WILL GO INTO STEADY DECLINE DURING HIS STEWARDSHIP. AS DIRECT RESULT RRP WILL BECOME SECOND LARGEST PARTY IN 1977.

4. ORHON EXPECTS DP TO COME OUT OF ELECTION MORIBUND. SIMILARLY HE BELIEVES NSP WILL NOT BECOME VIABLE PARTY. TURKS ARE TOO SOPHISTICATED TO SWALLOW ARABM SOCIALISM PREACHED BY NSP. CAPTURE OF MORE THAN 20 SEATS BY NSP WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT SETBACK FOR TURKISH DEMOCRACY.

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5. COMMENT: ORHON HAS REPUTATION OF BEING ASTUTE POLITICIAN. HE REPORTEDLY VERY ACCURATE IN HIS PREDICTIONS IN 1969 BUT BECAUSE OF NEW PARTIES AND OTHER NEW FACTORS INVOLVED HE RELUCTANT MAKE SPECIFIC PREDICTIONS THIS YEAR. HIS PERSONAL POLITICAL FORTUNES ARE IN ELIPSE. HE HAS DECIDED NOT TO SEEK REELECTION THIS YEAR, BUT TO RESTRICT HIS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES TO THE PROVINCE. HIS NEGATIVE COMMENTS ABOUT ECEVIT AND RPP AND HIS POSITIVE PROJECTION OF RRP'S FUTURE WERE THOSE OF A MAN REASSURING HIMSELF HE HAD NOT BET ON WRONG HORSE.

SMITH

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